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(11)

EP 1 253 369 A2

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:  
30.10.2002 Bulletin 2002/44

(51) Int Cl.7: F16P 1/00

(21) Application number: 02425257.9

(22) Date of filing: 22.04.2002

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE TR  
Designated Extension States:  
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: Tabellini, Giorgio  
40037 Sasso Marconi (Bologna) (IT)

(74) Representative: Lanzoni, Luciano  
c/o BUGNION S.p.A.  
Via Goito, 18  
40126 Bologna (IT)

(30) Priority: 27.04.2001 IT BO20010262

(71) Applicant: P.E.I. Protezioni Elaborazioni  
Industriali S.r.l.  
40012 Calderara di Reno (Bologna) (IT)

### (54) A protective covering device for machinery and equipment

(57) A protective covering device (1) for machinery and equipment where a mobile tool (2) moves in at least one direction (D; D1, D2) along a defined path (P), comprises a set of cover elements (5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 5, 6, 7, 8) which are slidably coupled to each other and consist of a first cover element (5) attached to the machine or piece of equipment at an area to be protected, and a plurality of mobile cover elements (6, 7, 8, 9; 6, 7, 8) that move relative to each other and relative to the first cover element (5) along the defined path (P) followed by the tool (2). Each cover element (5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 5, 6, 7, 8) comprises an opening (5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9a; 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a) for the passage of the mobile tool (2) to which one

(9; 8) of the mobile cover elements (6, 7, 8, 9; 6, 7, 8) is attached, and at least one pair of drive and/or stop flanges (5c, 5d, 6c, 6d, 7c, 7d, 8c, 8d, 9c, 9d; 5c, 5d, 6c, 6d, 7c, 7d, 8c, 8d) to move and/or stop the mobile cover elements (6, 7, 8, 9; 6, 7, 8). Between the flanges (5c, 5d, 6c, 6d, 7c, 7d, 8c, 8d, 9c, 9d; 5c, 5d, 6c, 6d, 7c, 7d, 8c, 8d) facing each adjacent cover element (5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 5, 6, 7, 8) there is at least one energy dissipating element (15) to reduce the relative speed of the faster cover element (6, 7, 8, 9; 6, 7, 8) as it approaches the slower cover element (5, 6, 7, 8; 5, 6, 7) without allowing energy to return between the two elements (5, 6, 7, 8, 9; 5, 6, 7, 8), so as to avoid swinging and rocking of the mobile tool (2).

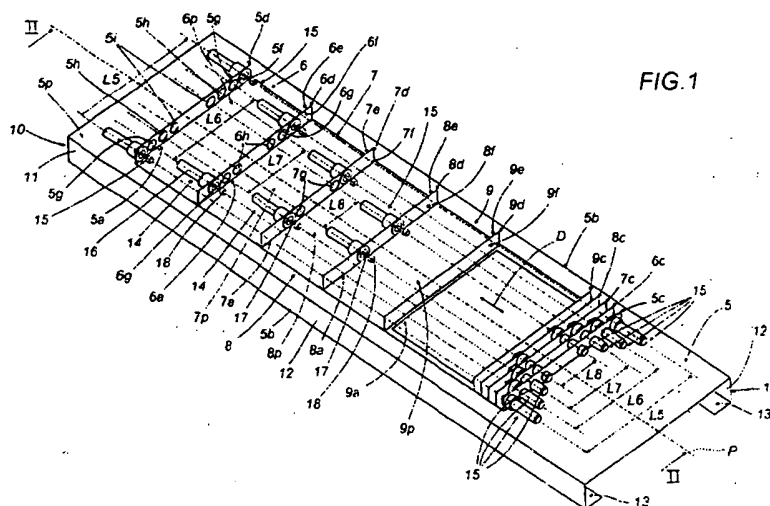


FIG. 1